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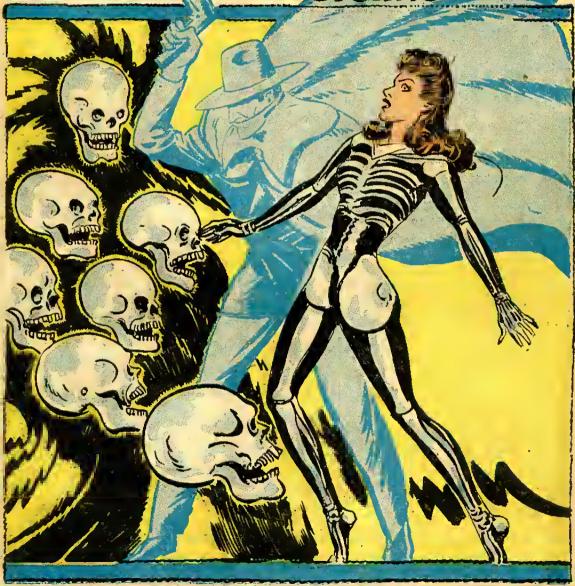
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HALL HAS SOME GREAT

























ALRIGHT, SKELETON! LOOK OVER











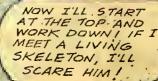




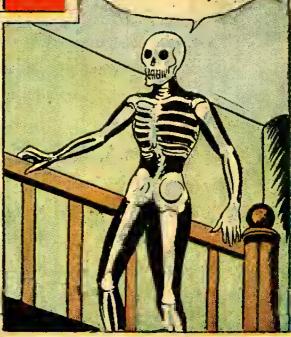




















YOU VENTURED HERE SO YOU MUST PAY THE CONSEQUENCES

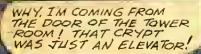
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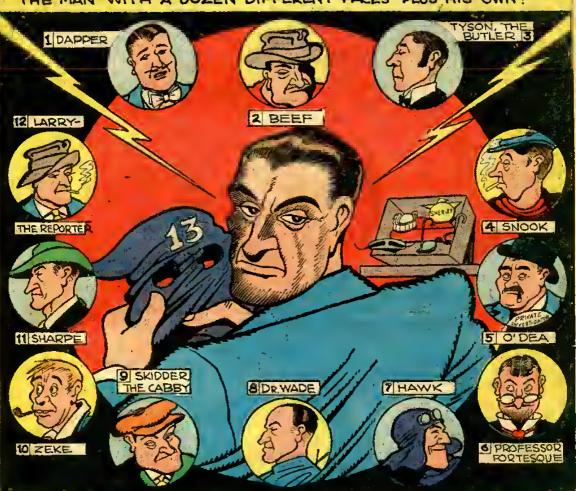












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TAKING CHECKS
AND DEPOSIT
BOOK, MR. 13
STARTS FOR
THE BANK
AS 'TYSON'
THE BUTLER,
WHO HAPPENS
ALSO TO
BE HIMSELF!















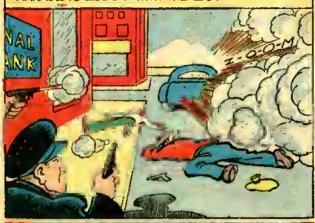








STAMPEOED BY MR.13, THE FLEEING CROOKS LOSE TWO OF THEIR NUMBER, THOUGH THE REST MANAGE TO ESCAPE WITH THE LOOT.







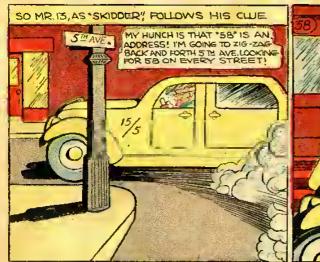


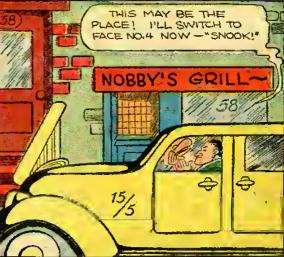


IN THE PARKING LOT WHERE HE KEEPS HIS CAB MR. IS SWITCHES FROM O'DEA TO "SKIDDER", AND STARTS OUT TO FOLLOW THE CLUE OF THE PAPER SUP











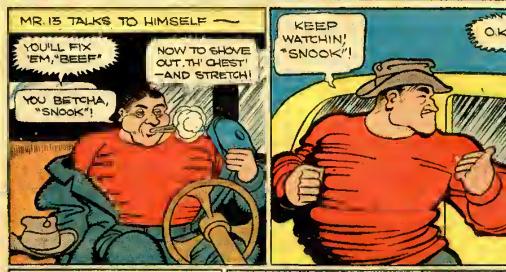
THE CHEAP CAFE AS "SNOOK"-

TH' CHIEF HAS PS-S-T! THAT LUG AT TH' BAR IS LISTENING!
NEW JERSEY WITH TH' SWAG!
I'LL DROPA
NICKEL IN THE
JUKE BOX SO
HE WON'T HEAR
I GOT
A BETTER
IDEA!



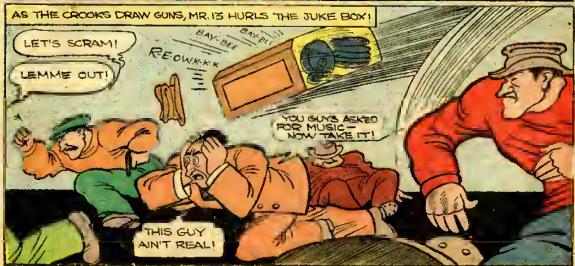


























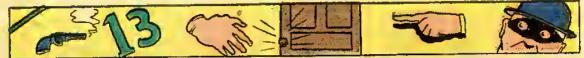








AFTER THE GLIDER TRIP — AS "DAPPER" MR. 15 ARRIYES AT THE FASHIONABLE WESTWOOD INN







AFTER LEAVING
THE HOTEL AS
"DAPPER", MR. 13
DRIVES OVER BY
THE OLD FARM
TO BECOME "PROF.
FORTESQUE", THE
ABSENT-MINDED
NATURALIST

















































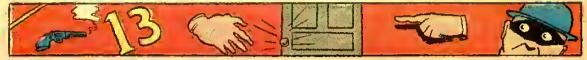






HERDED BY MR, IS
THE BANK ROBBERS
ARRIVE IN THE COUNTY
COURT HOUSE TO BE
TAKEN INTO CUSTODY
BY THE REAL SHERIFF

















# onner Lirele

# NICK CARTER TAKES OVER THE INNER CIRCLE!!



For once there was no horseplay as the meeting of the Inner Circle came to order. All the members were too much in awe of their new chairman. The new chairman cleared his throat and said, "Fellow members, I suppose you all know that Chick has been accepted as a member of the Air Cadets. Before he left to help Uncle Sam in a new way, he gave me an idea of some of the things which he has taught you. I think that the idea behind this organization, the Inner Circle, is so important that it warrants my trying to take over Chick's job. I'll do my best to try to fill his boots, if I can."

Chick would have smiled had he been there at the idea of his famous foster-father Nick Carter, having any trouble in doing Chick's work. But it was like the man who. for all his fame, as one of the master man hunters of all time had not ever lost his real modesty.

"that he intended to tell you about a case in which I was involved to-a small degree. Chick quite romantically called the case, 'The Shades of Night.'"

Beef wiggled his toes inside his shoes in excitement. Never in his wildest dreams had he thought that the day would come when he'd hear Nick Carter give all the inside dope on a case. Beef listened. He was all ears, as were all the rest of the members of the Inner Circle.

Nick fingered the white carnation in his buttonhole and said, "As all of you probably know, one of the most peculiar jobs that a man canido for his country is to become a counter-espionage agent. That's a pretty long way of saying "counter-spy" but that's what it means. It also means one of the dirtiest, most thankless tasks in the world. A counter-spy works to dig out and get rid of spies. But that is only part of the job. The worst thing is that counterespionage is very delicate work. The counter-spy works outside the law and if he is caught, he can look for no help from his government! Let's say the circumstances of a case are such that a counter-spy is forced to kill a spy."

Nick paused, then went on. "Remember, the counter-spy has just as much right to "I find in Chick's notes," continued Nick, - deal out death as does a soldier on a battle

field. Nevertheless if he is caught by the authorities, he goes to the electric chair or whatever the means of death is in the country in which he is operating."

"I was in Portugal," said Nick, "and that's a hangout for every international spy in the world. It's a sort of haven for them because Portugal is a neutral. I can't tell you why I was there. Perhaps later on, after the war, I'll be able to tell you that story, but in the course of my case I ran across a man who was known as Von Bierstat. If you have ever seen Eric Von Stroheim in the movies you can picture Von Bierstat, for he was the same type. From his short cropped hair and his monocled eye down to his highly polished boots he was the perfect German officer. Arrogant, conceited, overbearing, well, he had the chin you'd love to touch. With a brick, '



"One night, when I was brooding over the trouble I was having with my own case I saw Von Bierstat get into an argument with a waiter in a restaurant in which I was waiting. The waiter spoke back to him and there was a very unpleasant scene. It wound up with Von Bierstat slashing at the waiter with his riding crop. The waiter lifted his serving cloth to his face as a sort of shield. I jumped up to interfere when I saw a strange thing happen."

There was not a single sound from the members. If that person, who is always so anxious to drop a pin, had been there, he could have dropped it and it would have sounded like a crow bar. Everyone was on the edge of their seat as Nick went on.

"Von Bierstat dropped his monocle! As he bent down to pick it up I saw something drop out from under the cloth that the waiter still held up in front of him. Whatever it was that dropped, was white. I saw Von Bierstat pick it up as he retrieved his monocle. I was the only one in the restaurant that was at the right angle to see this."

Nick took a drink of water. He was a little embarrassed by the hero worshipping glances the members were according him. Nick wondered uneasily how Frank Sinatra was able to stand it.

"Immediately after this, the manager of the place came over; the waiter apologized and Von Bierstat left. I got up to follow him and I wish I had been able to. For I might have been able to prevent a tragedy. But it was not to be. I saw the man I had been waiting for in regard to my own case and I had to go after him. I didn't get back to my hotel until late that night. I was going up to my own room when I remembered that Von Bierstat was in the same hotel.

"I went to his door and stood outside it. I listened. There was not a sound. I kneeled down and looked through the key hole. What I saw brought me to my feet in a hurry. I yelled for the hotel manager and opened the door. It was even worse than my curtailed glance through the keyhole had led me to think.

"The room was a shambles; it had been literally torn to pieces. Someon had searched that room more thoroughly than I have ever seen a room searched, and I've done some searching in my time. In the center of the floor, as dead as I hope Hitler soon will be, lay Von Bierstat. A dagger had been driven through his heart. The hotel manager was behind me breathing on my neck and cursing the evil fate that had brought this disgrace and trouble to his beautiful, innocent, hotel. Innocent! It was crawling with spies and counter-spies of every country in the world!

"He was still behind me, as I stepped to Von Bierstat's desk. A scrawled note lay there. It read: 'See here, are devil's evil?' The letters were blurred with blood. He had written it with his last dying strength."

Nick could see the frowns of concentration as the members tried to puzzle out the meaning of the cryptic sentence.

"The police were called," said Nick, "and finally just before dawn I managed to crawl into bed. I was really dog tired and as I relaxed in bed I hoped to be able to sleep at least a couple of hours before I had to get going again. Instead, that blasted line kept going over and over through my tired

brain, "See here, are devil's evil?" Over and over, till I thought I'd crack up if I didn't get some rest. Finally, in desperation, I got up. I wrote the letters of the note down on a sheet of paper. I figured out every code I could think of, but to no avail.

"Finally a thought struck me. Why had Von Bierstat, a German, written his last words in English? That'll show how stupid with fatigue I was: The thought should have occurred to me at once! Once I began to think logically, I began to make some progress. I reconstructed the crime as I thought it had happened. In the first, place, whoever had killed Von Bierstat, had done it in order to get something. That was obvious from the way the room had been searched. In the second place, if they were looking for something they wouldn't have left a clue like the note, for anyone to find. Therefor Von Bierstat must have pretended to be dead until his killers left the room and then, with one final burst of strength, written the note. A dying man, I reasoned, would not have had the energy to have used a very complex code. In all probability he had merely wanted to keep his secret from whoever found his body. In the ordinary course of events, that would have been a hotel employee."

Chick had told the members of what he called "the sheer beauty of Nick's deductive powers," but this was the first time they had had an opportunity to follow Nick's mind at work. They were enthralled.

Nick said, "Once I realized that, why the meaning of 'See here, are devil's evil?' became quite plain.

"I dressed hurriedly and went to Von told you it was very simple." Bierstat's room. I closed the door behind me and went to the window. I pulled down the window shade. As I did so a piece of paper fluttered to the ground from its hiding place. Von Bierstat had merely pulled the shade down, placed the paper on the shade and then let the shade roll up again.

"As I reached for the precious piece of paper which Von Bierstat had given up his life to protect, a harsh, guttural, voice barked, 'Don't move. A man stepped from the closet: He had a gun in his hand.

"I straightened up," said Nick, "with the paper in my hand. My back was to Von Bierstat's desk. I held the piece of paper out towards the gunman and at the same time let my other hand go behind me casually. The man reached for the paper

"As he did so, my fingers curled around a paperweight. His attention was all on the paper. I whipped the paperweight around in front of me and down on his gun hand. He screamed with pain as the weight broke his wrist.

"That was about all there was to it." Nick said casually. "The authorities were very glad to get their hands on the man, because he had left his finger prints on the He couldn't say anything death knife. about the piece of paper because he was a German spy."



"But," asked Beef as Nick paused, who was Von Bierstat?"

"Oh," said Nick, "I thought you realized why he wrote the note in English. Von Bierstat was an American counter-espionage agent. He died a hero's death and no one will know it until peace is declared. Incidentally, the contents of that piece of paper will hurry the day of peace. He did not die in vain."

Beef gulped over the fate of an American hero. But even emotion can't silence Beefvery long. He asked, "What was the hidden message in the note?"

Nick turned to the blackboard and wrote out the message with a piece of chalk, "I

Nick underlined the first letter of each word. .Like this. "See here, are devil's evil?" Everyone nodded their heads as they read "Shade."

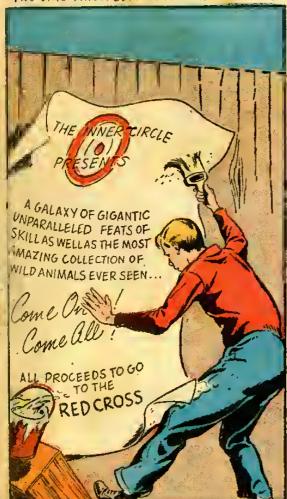
Nick picked up his black Homburg hat and adjusted it to his head at a jaunty, devilmay-care angle. "I've got to run, now." He said. "But I'll see you all next month. I hope. If I'm still in one piece. So long."

Nick waved goodbye and was gone, leaving the members to wait impatiently till his return.





TWO DAYS LATER BEEF "PAPERS THE TOWN".









#### CHICK WORKS ON THE WILD ANIMAL PROBLEM ...



EVERY ATTIC IN TOWN IS LOOTED ...



IT'S HARD WORK BUT FINALLY ...



#### WEEKS OF PREPARATION, OF REHEARSAL AND REAL MANUAL LABOR COME TO AN END ...



WHEW, I BEEN COUNTING SOFARTHEY SOLD 400 TICKETS AND AT A HALF BUCK A THROW!

AWAY

NOT FAR









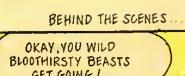
























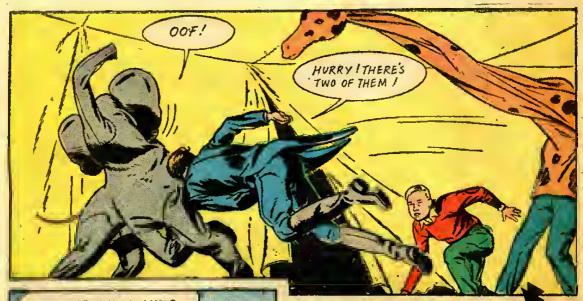














THE AUDIENCE AGREED THE SHOW WAS WELL WORTH THE MONEY- ESPECIALLY, THE FIGHT!



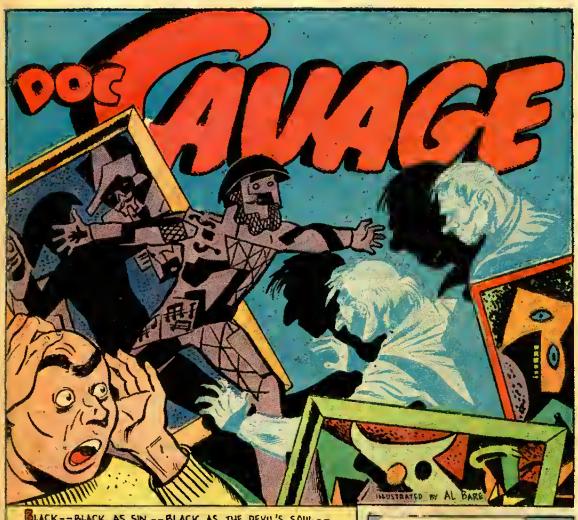


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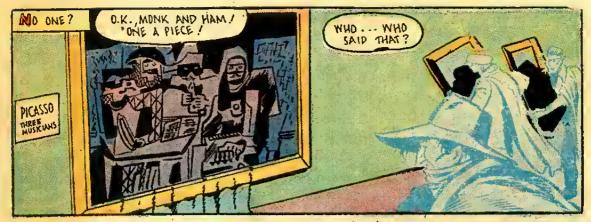


































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VENUS, THE ROCKET-SHIP
HAS LANDED IN BACK
OF THE LABORATORY
WHERE SOLARUS
DESIGNED HIS ROCKETSHIP.....



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